

Strong Role in Setting National Policy

States need the assurance of a policy voice sufficient to protect their interests as the III system evolves. Since the criminal history records available through the III system will be predominantly state maintained records, the states need assurance that the use of these records will be consistent with state concerns in areas such as privacy, system security, and data quality.

The Compact provides for the establishment of a Council, that shall have the authority to promulgate rules and procedures governing the use of the III system for noncriminal justice purposes. The Council is composed of 15 members appointed by the U.S. Attorney General. The membership composition and terms specified under Article VI of the Compact requires nine of the fifteen Compact Council members to be state Compact Officers or state repository administrators.

The Chairman of the Council may establish committees as necessary to carry out the Compact responsibilities. To that affect, two noteworthy committees have been established. The Standards Committee's charter is to assess provisions, rules, procedures and standards for the effective use of the III system. The Sanctions Committee's charter is to assess compliance with the Compact provisions, rules, procedures and standards and recommend remedial action should noncompliance occur.

Current Compact States

Montana	March 31, 1999
South Carolina	June 22, 2000
Georgia	April 28, 1999
Arkansas	February 21, 2001
Nevada	May 14, 1999
Kansas	April 10, 2001
Florida	June 8, 1999
Oklahoma	May 24, 2001
Colorado	March 10, 2000
Maine	June 8, 2001
Iowa	April 7, 2000
Alaska	June 25, 2001
Connecticut	June 1, 2000
New Jersey	January 5, 2002
Minnesota	March 25, 2002
Arizona	April 29, 2002
Tennessee	May 28, 2003
North Carolina	June 19, 2003
New Hampshire	June 20, 2003
Missouri	August 23, 2003
Ohio	January 7, 2004



National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact

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Points of Contact:
Council Chairman, Ms. Donna Uzzell
Telephone: 851-410-7100
email: donnauzzell@fdle.state.fl.us

FBI Compact Officer, Mr. Todd C. Commodore
Telephone: 304-625-2803
email: tcommodo@leo.gov

On October 10, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Act (also referred to as the Compact), allowing party states to disseminate their criminal history record information to other states for noncriminal justice purposes in accordance with the laws of the receiving state. This landmark legislation continues the dynamic movement toward decentralization of criminal history records that began in 1978 with the Interstate Identification Index (III) project.

The III is an index pointer criminal history record system that ties computerized files of the FBI and the State-level centralized files maintained by each state into a national system. This system serves as the vehicle for data sharing and integration across the country. Eventually, when all of the states become full participants in this system, the FBI's centralized files of state offender records will be discontinued and all users of criminal history records, for both criminal justice and authorized noncriminal justice purposes, will obtain those records directly from the states central computerized files.

The Compact was necessary to facilitate records sharing as it supersedes any conflicting laws in states where it is adopted and provides a uniform dissemination policy among states. The Compact serves as the final critical element along the path toward complete decentralization of criminal history records.

The groundwork leading up to the passage of the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact legislation took a concerted effort for more than twenty years. The Compact became effective, by its terms, when ratified by the second state, on April 28, 1998.

Uniform Dissemination Standard

Ratification of the Compact will establish a uniform nationwide standard governing the interstate dissemination of criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes.

This will ensure the federal agencies will continue to receive the state records needed to screen persons for employment in sensitive positions and for other authorized purposes and that authorized state agencies will continue to receive the out-of-state records needed to screen state employees and licensees.

Each state will determine what criminal history record information is disseminated within its borders for noncriminal justice purposes. States will continue to apply their own dissemination laws to in-state use of their own records and will screen out-of-state records received through III pursuant to their own laws.

States will participate as an integral part of the national community, establishing technology standards, supporting consistency and uniformity, thereby increasing the utility of data sharing and integration.

Increased Record Quality

There will be an increase in the completeness of records made available on an interstate basis for both criminal justice and noncriminal justice purposes. This is because records maintained at the state repositories are more up to date than the FBI's files. Also, many of the states maintain records of some misdemeanor offenses that have not been submitted to the FBI.

Cost Avoidance

Duplicate maintenance of criminal history records by the states and the FBI, and attendant costs, will be eliminated. The states will be relieved of the burden and cost of submitting arrest fingerprint and charge/disposition data to the FBI for all arrests for felonies and serious misdemeanors. Instead, the states will submit only fingerprints and textual identification data for each person's first arrest and update the FBI's index and national fingerprint file.

Cost Savings

The state criminal history record repository and the FBI may charge a fee, in accordance with applicable law, for handling the request involving fingerprint processing for noncriminal justice purposes. If the state criminal history record repository can positively identify the subject of the record, the national search is not required, thereby avoiding the \$24 fee incurred for the national fingerprint search.

